

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GUATEM 07805 232247Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CA-01 JUSE-00 SSO-00 /015 W
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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8546
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 7805

MEXICO FOR LEGATT

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, GT
SUBJ: EXTRADITON -JORGE ZIMERI

REF: STATE 304821 NOTAL

1. REVIEW OF OUR FILES DOES NOT GIVE ANY INDICATIONS THAT
CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING CRIME OF WHICH ZIMERI STANDS
ACCUSED WERE POLITICAL.

2 LT. OROZCO, FROM ALL ACCOUNTS, WAS A MEMBER OF ZIMERI
GANG ALONG WITH SEVERAL OTHER LOW-RANKING MILITARY OFFICERS WHO
APPARENTLY MOONLIGHTED AS HIRED HIT MEN. THERE IS NO
INDICATION THAT ZIMERI-OROZCO RELATIONSHIP WAS POLITICAL, OR
THAT THEIR PRESUMED FALLING-OUT HAD APOLITICAL CONTEXT.. MOST
PLAUSIBLE SPECULATIONS, ECHOED IN THE LOCAL PRESSS AROUND THE
TIME OROZCO'S REMAINS WERE DUG UP ON ZIMERI PROPERTY, WERE
THAT ZIMERI HAD OROZCO SILENCED EITHER BECAUSE "HE KNEW
TOO MUCH/ ABOUT ZIMERI'S OPERATION, OR OVER A WOMAN.

3. FOREGOING IS NOT TO SUGGEST THAT XIMERI LACKED POLITICAL
TIES. HE IS WIDELY REPUTED TO HAVE BEEN PART OF EX-
PRESIDENT ARANA.S BODY GUARD (ARANA DENIED THIS PUBLICLY,
BUT WE HAVE IT ON GOOD AUTHORITY THAT ZIMERI TOOK REFUGE
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IN ARANA'S HOME BEFORE FLEEING GUATEMALA IN AUGUST 1975.
SUPPOSEDLY HE WAS ESPECIALLY TO ROBERTO/TITO/ ARANA, SON OF
THE EX-PRESIDENT.) HE ALSO HAS BEEN LINKED TO VICE PRESIDENT
MARIO SANDOVAL AND TO THE LATE MLN CONGRESSMAN BERNAL HERNANDEZ,
KEY FIGURES BEHIND THE RIGHT-WING MANO BLANCO TERRORISTS
EVENTUALLY SUPPRESSED BY THE LAUGERUD ADMINISTRATION.

4. FINALLY, DOCUMENTS IN OUR FILES (PRESUMABLY ALSO AVAILABLE IN DEPARTMENT) REFLECT REPORTS THAT AS OF EARLY 1976 ZIMERI WAS CONSPIRING TO "OVERTHROW THE GUATEMALAN GOVERNMENT." WE WOULD POINT OUT THAT THIS DEVELOPMENT APPARENTLY OCCURED CONSIDERABLY AFTER OROZCO'S DEATH. ONE COULD REASONABLY ATTRIBUTE IT TO THE DESIRE OF ZIMERI(WIDELY VIEWED AS EMOTIONALLY UNSTABLE) FOR VENGEANCE AGAINST THE GOG, WHICH HE PROBABLY HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UNSUCCESSFUL AUGUST 1975 ATTEMPT OF HIS LIFE.
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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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